Despite the steep increase in international oil prices, the Government has not increased the prices of PDS kerosene during the last six years and domestic LPG over the last three years.

(c) to (e) The international oil prices have been on consistently upward trend since 2003-04. Each year, annual oil prices have averaged more than those prevailing during the previous year. Indian basket of crude oil, which average about $ 23/bbl at the time of dismantling of APM in March 2002 and $36 bbl in May 2004, averaged about $62.5/bbl during 2006-07. The price of Indian basket of crude oil during Feb' 08 (up to 29th) is $92.37/bbl and average during the current year April 07-29th February' 08) is $77.44/bbl.

As passing on the entire impact of the steep increase in the oil prices to the consumers would have resulted in hardship to the common man, the retail selling prices of sensitive petroleum products namely petrol, diesel, PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG have not been increased in tandem with the international oil prices. The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are, as such, incurring under-recoveries on domestic sale of these sensitive petroleum products. To deal with the steep escalation in international oil prices, the Government has adopted the principle of equitable burden sharing between the Government the oil PSUs and consumers to protect the interest of common man, vulnerable sections of society and also the financial health of OMCs.

In this context, the Government has made a marginal increase in petrol and diesel prices by Rs. 2/litre and Re. 1/litre respectively with effect from 15.2.2008, which is actually in the nature of a restoration of retail prices of these products to the price level operating before February, 2007. The Government has issued Oil Bonds and the Upstream Oil Companies have also contributed by offering discount on crude oil and petroleum products to partially compensate the under-recoveries of OMCs. The Government is closely monitoring the international oil prices and will continue to protect the interests of consumers.

Meetings regarding Indo-Iran gas pipeline

1187. DR. K. KESHAVA RAO:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the continued absence of India at the India-Pakistan-Iranian pipeline meetings at Islamabad and its silence over Iranian move for trilateral talks in Tehran;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is insisting on transit charges for transport of gas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Iran proposed to hold the Seventh Trilateral Meeting of Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project in Tehran in September 2007 and, subsequently, a meeting of the Oil Ministers of Iran, Pakistan and India in Tehran in February 2008. Government examined the proposals and it was decided that it would be necessary to have a bilateral meeting between India and Pakistan before having the trilateral meetings, as

there are certain bilateral issues with Pakistan, which need to be discussed and resolved first.

(b) and (c) Pakistan is demanding transit fees for passage of natural gas through Pakistan territory. The issue is being discussed with Pakistan.

Enhancement of capital expenditure in KG Basin

1188. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reliance Industries Ltd. has submitted a proposal once again to enhance the capital expenditure (CAPEX) on the KG Basin D6 gas recovery;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry is consulting with other stake holders on the said proposal submitted by the Reliance Industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the latest position of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (e) No proposal to enhance the capital expenditure for the approved development plan for D1 and D3 discoveries involving estimated expenditure of US $8.83 billion has been received. However, on 18th August, 2007, the operator has sumbitted a fresh Development plan for MA oil and gas discovery in the same block.

Hike in petroleum prices

1189. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it a fact that the prices of petroleum products particularly petrol and diesel were hiked periodically;

(b) if so, the details of price hike on petrol/diesel during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the details of prices of petrol/diesel in South Asian countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL: (a) and (b) The details of increase/decrease in the prices of Petrol and Diesel (at Delhi) during the last three years *w.e.f.* 01-04-05 are given below:

Date	Petrol Rs./Ltr.	Diesel Rs./Ltr.
01.04.05 (VAT implemented at Delhi)	37.99	28.22
04.05.05 (reduction of VAT rate on HSD)	—	26.45
21.06.05	40.49	28.45
07.09.05	43.49	30.45
06.06.06	47.51	32.47